

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A vehicle speed controller, comprising:

a rotary input device for human operation capable of continuous rotary motion mounted to a vehicle;

sensing means responsive to changes in the angular velocity of said rotary input device;

a power source carried by said vehicle;

remote motive power output means for propelling said vehicle mechanically independent of said rotary input device; and

a controller electrically connected to said rotary input device, said sensing means, said power source, and said remote power output means, said controller being operative to increase the power from said power source to said motive power output means as the sensed speed of said rotary input device increases.

2. The speed controller of claim 1 wherein said rotary input device includes operator foot pedals.

3. The speed controller of claim 1 wherein said rotary input device further includes handle means for hand operation by the operator.

4. The speed controller of claim 1 wherein said vehicle is a land vehicle.

5. The speed controller of claim 4 wherein said vehicle is wheeled.

6. The speed controller of claim 5 wherein said remote motive power output means mechanically drives one or more wheels.

1 7. The speed controller of claim 6 wherein said output means comprises an electric
2 motor.

3 8. The speed controller of claim 7 wherein said sensing means is an electric generator
4 mechanically driven by said rotary input means.

5 9. The speed controller of claim 8 wherein said sensing means provides substantial
6 mechanical resistance to the rotation of said rotary input device.

7 10. The speed controller of claim 9 wherein said mechanical resistance means is
8 electrical resistance means connected to the electrical output of said generator.

9 11. The speed controller of claim 10 further described in that said electric resistance
10 means is manually settable to provide variable amounts of mechanical resistance.

11 12. The speed controller of claim 11 wherein said power source is a battery.

12 13. The speed controller of claim 12 further including a circuit breaker to disconnect
13 said power source.

14 14. The speed controller of claim 13 further including means for selectively varying the
15 amount of electrical power increase to said motive power output device relative to the increase in
16 the sensed speed of the rotary input device.

17 15. The speed controller of claim 1 wherein said rotary input device further includes a
18 drive sprocket, idler sprocket, and a drive chain extending therebetween, said sprockets and chain
19 being visually simulative of a bicycle-type chain drive.

20 16. A vehicle having an electrical speed controller, comprising:

21 a vehicle;

22 a rotary input device capable of continuous rotary motion mounted to said vehicle

1 for human operation;

2 sensing means responsive to the angular position of said rotary input device;

3 a power source carried by said vehicle;

4 remote motive power output means mechanically independent of said rotary input
5 device for propelling said vehicle;

6 a controller electrically connected to said rotary input device, said sensing means,
7 said power source, and said remote power output means; and

8 said controller being operative to provide power from said power source to said
9 motor power output means so that the angular position of said motor output means proportional
10 to the angular position of said rotary input device is maintained.

11 17. The vehicle speed controller of claim 1 further including a key switch

12 which in the off position shorts out the output of the speed controller to disable it.